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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Exceptional reclamation projects recognized

CARSON CITY, NV – When mining operations and exploration projects in Nevada are complete, mining companies are required to leave the land safe and stable, and to provide a productive post-mining land use. To recognize and share examples of successes in the area of reclamation, closure, planning and wildlife protection and enhancement in Nevada, *Excellence in Mine Reclamation Awards* have been presented since 1991.

Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Director Leo Drozdoff says, “While compulsory land reclamation projects occur throughout the state, these awards highlight efforts that are truly noteworthy.”

2015 Winners are:

Overall Mine Reclamation Award – Preble Mine Closure Project
Barrick Gold of North America

The Preble Deposit was first discovered in 1982 in the Osgood Mountains in Humboldt County. Development of the disseminated gold deposit began in 1984 and included construction of leach pads. The last continuous application of cyanide was in 1992.

Shaping and seeding of the leach pads was completed in 1995, and structures on the property were removed by 1999. Complete drain-down of the leach pad was achieved in 2004. Final bond release was requested and granted by the BLM in 2014. This land has now been returned to the public for future use.

(more)

Concurrent Reclamation Award – Cordex Pit Backfill Project
Standard Gold Mining/Florida Canyon Mining, Inc.

The Standard Mine is located in the Humboldt Range in Pershing County, on both public and private lands. Mining of the Cordex Pit occurred from 2004 through 2006, with a total disturbance area of 54 acres. Mining of other nearby pits allowed for waste rock to be used to backfill the Cordex pit, which occurred through 2011. Sloping and contouring of the backfilled pit and waste rock facility continued through 2014. A stable post-mining landform with water run-off and stabilization were achieved.

Outstanding Rehabilitation Award – Yellow Jacket Hoist Works Rehabilitation
Site Restoration – Small Operator Award – Keystone Mine Cut
Comstock Mining Corporation

The Keystone mine cut was located adjacent to State Route 342 at the north end of the mine area. Traveling south on SR 342 from Virginia City, it was the first visible impression of the active mine. Comstock recognized the significance and importance of this in the viewshed of local residents. Comstock regraded and shaped the open cut and placed patches of boulders to blend in with the appearance of the local topography. The area was then hydro-seeded.

Through activities of the Comstock Foundation for History and Culture, Comstock Mining provided for the restoration of the historic Upper Yellow Jacket Hoist works.

Abandoned Mine Lands Hazard Mitigation Award - Bailey Day Abandoned Mine Land
Closure Project
Newmont Mining

South of Battle Mountain is the historic Copper Basin area, which has been prospected and mined since the 1800's and hazardous abandoned mine features are present on both private and public lands. One of these historic mining areas was the Bailey Day mine, located on public land near the town of Battle Mountain. Although the area had been fenced, continual trespass had reached a peak in 2013, when the Lander County Sheriff's Department contacted Newmont with concerns about continued vandalism of the exclusion fence and concerns for young people exploring shafts and tunnels and using the site for wildland parties.

Newmont immediately responded with fencing repairs, and coordinated with the BLM, Sheriff's Department, the Nevada Department of Wildlife and the Nevada Division of Minerals in planning for permanent closure of hazards. Archeological and biological assessments were completed, and a detailed closure plan was implemented. Shafts were backfilled and surface dumps were regraded to approximately the original contour, and the entire area was re-seeded.

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